

Closer to God 2023

CHALLENGES TO OUR FAITH



**Our  
BUSY LIVES**

# The problem of busyness

- We are living in times where it is very easy to become overcommitted
  - More conveniences, yet less time
  - We have made our lives more crowded and complicated
  - We have added more things to do and places to go

# The problem of busyness

- Work schedules impact our personal study and prayer time
- School and social activities hinder our attendance
- Recreations chokes out our time to visit the sick
- Home projects hinder the time we spend trying to evangelize
- Friends take priority over brethren

# The problem of busyness

- Work schedules impact our personal study and prayer time

- School and social activities

• Busyness has gotten in the way of many in the quest to draw closer to God

- We spend less time with the Lord and less time remaining the time we spend trying to evangelize

- Friends take priority over brethren

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**Our  
BUSY LIVES**

# The dangers of busyness

- God is often put on the backburner  
**Luke 9:57-62, cf. Luke 8:14**
- God often gets what is leftover  
**Malachi 1:6-8, 13.**  
**Cf. Matthew 6:33** – is God really first?

# The dangers of busyness

- We can become distracted

**Luke 10:41-42**

In life there are consequences when we fail to “show up”. But spiritually these are often delayed.

**Hebrews 2:1** – are we drifting?

# The dangers of busyness

- It can rob us of joy

Stress, anxiety, pressures, impatience, irritability, etc.

We fail to pause and appreciate

**Proverbs 12:25**, *Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.*

**Philippians 4:4** – rejoice in the Lord always



# The dangers of busyness

- It can hinder our effectiveness spiritually

Too busy to grow spiritually

Am I fulfilling my spiritual responsibilities?

Am I really doing my best for Him?

How do I respond when the unexpected happens?

# The dangers of busyness

- It is often a sign of worldliness  
Does our busyness show that we prefer the world over God? **1 John 2:15-17**

# The Bible and busyness

- Consider verses already mentioned
- **Ephesians 5:15-16, Colossians 4:5** - Walk circumspectly (mindfully), redeeming the time
- **Matthew 5:8** - blessed are the pure in heart (unpolluted, undiluted)
- **1 Thessalonians 4:11** - lead a quiet life

# Dealing with busyness

- Being busy is not wrong
- We OUGHT to be busy!  
Consider Jesus - **John 9:4**
- Sloth (laziness) is condemned - **Proverbs 18:9, 21:25, cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10**  
Often tied to one refusing to be busy or work  
- **cf. Matthew 25:14-30**  
BUT...

# Dealing with busyness

- Being busy is not wrong
- BUT laziness is not always the opposite of busyness.
  - some think that if they are not busy all the time they will be perceived as lazy (and some “guilt” others into this)
  - IF one chooses to not do something or overbook their lives, it often shows wisdom, priority and balance.
- We need limits!

# Dealing with busyness

- Examine yourself
- Where we always begin!  
**2 Corinthians 13:5**
- **1 Corinthians 10:31** – is what I am doing to the glory of God?  
Is it necessary or a choice?  
Am I robbing God? (**Malachi 3:8**) – including my time?  
Is my spirituality suffering?

# Dealing with busyness

- Learn the importance of prioritizing
- **Matthew 6:33** – seek His kingdom first
- **Ephesians 5:15-16** – walk mindfully.
- **Romans 12:2** – renewing your mind
- Good, better, best?
- The truth is, we cannot do everything. What will you give up first? **Luke 12:42** – Mary chose “the good part”

# Dealing with busyness

- Make time for God
- In busy times, we need God's word and prayer!
- Jesus was busy - **Acts 10:38**. Yet He found time to pray - **Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16**  
**Mark 6:30-32** - He told His apostles to rest
- Paul was busy - but how much did he pray?
- **SCHEDULE** personal time with God!



# Dealing with busyness

- “Clean house”
- If our “plate is too full” something has to give!
- **Romans 12:1-2** What will you sacrifice for Him?
- **Mark 10:28** - the apostles “left all” for Him - they walked away from things
- What am I willing to give up?

# Dealing with busyness

- Budget your time
- Budget - a plan to ensure that you are not using more than you have.
- Can this apply to our time?  
**Ephesians 5:16** – redeem it.
- Build into your schedule what is most important!

# Dealing with busyness

- Balance
- We need to be busy, but NOT too busy!
- We have many commitments in life that need to be wisely balanced!
- Do not neglect the things that need to be done - including work, rest, etc.
- Just do not forget God

# Dealing with busyness

- Build in extra time
- Life happens! Do we have a margin in place?  
“A space between our load and our limit”
- When we are not rushed, we are less stressed and better prepared to address the “curveballs” of life.
- And that is why we must include time to rest and relax

**Mark 2:27** – the Sabbath was made for man

# Dealing with busyness

- Build in extra time
- Life happens! Do we have a margin in place?  
“A space between our load and our limit”
- When we are not rushed, we are less stressed and better prepared to address the “curveballs” of life.

When margins are in place we will not be stressed over the little things!  
We will not be habitually late!

# Dealing with busyness

- Learn to say, “NO!”
- Do you ever find your heart saying “no”, but your mouth says “yes”?
- We cannot do everything for everyone. Nor does God expect that!
- It is not healthy - spiritually, mentally and physically! Bitterness, stress, exhaustion, being exploited, etc.

# Dealing with busyness

- Learn to say, “NO!”
- We must not villainize ourselves for saying “no” or let others “guilt” us.
- NOTE: This is not saying we ALWAYS say “no”!
- Are our priorities suffering?
- Jesus said “no” - **Mark 1:38**  
He even appointed 12 men to help Him - just to get started.  
Moses needed help - **Exodus 18:17**


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CHALLENGES TO OUR FAITH - Busyness

How are you  
managing your time?







Let us pray!